

Poll shows draft extension favored

A polling of the Selective Service System's Youth Advisory Committees in all fifty states and U.S. territories shows strong support for a temporary extension of the draft, the phase-out of student deferments, and the initiation of a uniform national call.

The three issues are cornerstones in the Administration's All-Volunteer Force/Draft Reform proposals.

According to the Youth Advisor's report sent to Selective Service Director, Curtis W. Tarr, today, a majority of Committees responding to the survey agreed that the authority to induct should be extended until June 30, 1973. In addition, the young people favor, by about a 2-1 margin, a phase-out of student deferments...and by about a 12-1 margin, the initiation of a uniform national call.

"Naturally we're pleased," noted Dr. Tarr. "We were very uncertain about the feelings of these young people regarding our proposed legislation, especially concerning an extension of

the authority to induct. A great majority of the committees, however, said they 'reluctantly agreed' that the draft had to be temporarily extended. As I read it, they felt we must exert maximum effort to hit zero draft calls and to initiate an All-Volunteer Force, but recognized that we just couldn't make that transition overnight."

The Youth Advisory Committees were begun by President

Nixon in June 1969, with panels now working in all 50 state Selective Service Headquarters. The approximately 650 young people range in age from 17 to 26 and represent diverse backgrounds. They are chosen by their individual State Selective Service Directors, based on their qualifications for the assignment and their ability to represent a particular segment of their states' young population.